Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-100. (Canceled)

101. (Currently amended) ~~The method of any one of claims 38, 49, 81, 84, and 100,~~ A method of inhibiting a target transcript associated with influenza virus in a mammalian subject comprising delivering a composition comprising

i) an RNAi-inducing entity and

ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide to the respiratory system of a subject by introducing the composition into the vascular system of the subject;

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity is a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript;

wherein the siRNA or shRNA;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length; and

wherein the at least one cationic peptide is selected from the group consisting of an arginine-rich peptide, a histidine-rich peptide, and a lysine-rich peptide.

102. (Currently amended) ~~The method of any one of claims 38, 49, 81, 84, and 100,~~ A method of inhibiting a target transcript associated with influenza virus in a mammalian subject comprising delivering a composition comprising

i) an RNAi-inducing entity and

ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide to the respiratory

system of a subject by introducing the composition into the vascular system of the subject;

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity is a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript;

wherein the siRNA or shRNA;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length; and

wherein the at least one cationic peptide is selected from the group consisting of a polylysine, a polyarginine, a polyhistidine, and a lysine-histidine peptide.

103. (New) A method of treating influenza or a clinical condition associated with overexpression or inappropriate expression of an influenza virus nucleoprotein (NP) transcript or excessive functional activity of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript comprising the step of delivering a composition comprising

i) an RNAi-inducing entity and

ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide

to a respiratory system solid organ or tissue of a subject at risk of or suffering from influenza or the clinical condition by introducing the composition into the vascular system of the subject;

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity is a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length; and

wherein the at least one cationic peptide is selected from the group consisting of

an arginine-rich peptide, a histidine-rich peptide, and a lysine-rich peptide.

104. (New) A method of treating influenza or a clinical condition associated with overexpression or inappropriate expression of an influenza virus nucleoprotein (NP) transcript or excessive functional activity of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript comprising the step of delivering a composition comprising

i) an RNAi-inducing entity and

ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide

to a respiratory system solid organ or tissue of a subject at risk of or suffering from influenza or the clinical condition by introducing the composition into the vascular system of the subject;

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity is a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length; and

wherein the at least one cationic peptide is selected from the group consisting of a polylysine, a polyarginine, a polyhistidine, and a lysine-histidine peptide.

105. (New) A method of inhibiting expression of a target transcript of a respiratory virus in a mammalian subject comprising the step of administering to the subject a composition comprising:

(i) an RNAI-inducing entity targeted to the target transcript; and

(ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity is a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to a target transcript;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length; and

wherein the at least one cationic peptide is selected from the group consisting of an arginine-rich peptide, a histidine-rich peptide, and a lysine-rich peptide.

106. (New) A method of inhibiting expression of a target transcript of a respiratory virus in a mammalian subject comprising the step of administering to the subject a composition comprising:

(i) an RNAI-inducing entity targeted to the target transcript; and

(ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity is a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to a target transcript;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length; and

wherein the at least one cationic peptide is selected from the group consisting of a polylysine, a polyarginine, a polyhistidine, and a lysine-histidine peptide.

107. (New) A method of treating influenza or a condition associated with overexpression or inappropriate expression of the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript of influenza virus or inappropriate or excessive expression or activity of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript, the method comprising steps of:

(a) providing a subject at risk of or suffering from a disease or condition associated with overexpression or inappropriate expression of ~~a~~ the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript of influenza virus or inappropriate or excessive expression or activity of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript; and

(b) administering to the subject a composition comprising:

(i) an RNAi-inducing entity targeted to the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript; and

(ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide;

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity is a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to nucleoprotein (NP) transcript;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length; and

wherein the at least one cationic peptide is selected from the group consisting of an arginine-rich peptide, a histidine-rich peptide, and a lysine-rich peptide.

108. (New) A method of treating influenza or a condition associated with overexpression or inappropriate expression of the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript of influenza virus or inappropriate or excessive expression or activity of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript, the method comprising steps of:

(a) providing a subject at risk of or suffering from a disease or condition associated with overexpression or inappropriate expression of ~~a~~ the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript of influenza virus or inappropriate or excessive expression or activity of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript; and

(b) administering to the subject a composition comprising:

(i) an RNAi-inducing entity targeted to the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript; and

(ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide;

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity is a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to nucleoprotein (NP) transcript;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length; and

wherein the at least one cationic peptide is selected from the group consisting of a

polylysine, a polyarginine, a polyhistidine, and a lysine-histidine peptide.

109. (New) A method of inhibiting a target transcript associated with influenza virus in a mammalian subject comprising delivering a composition comprising

i) an RNAi-inducing entity and

ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide-to the respiratory system of a subject by introducing the composition into the vascular system of the subject;

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity consists of a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to a target transcript;

wherein the siRNA or shRNA; and wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length; and

wherein the at least one cationic peptide is selected from the group consisting of an arginine-rich peptide, a histidine-rich peptide, and a lysine-rich peptide.

110. (New) A method of inhibiting a target transcript associated with influenza virus in a mammalian subject comprising delivering a composition comprising

i) an RNAi-inducing entity and

ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide-to the respiratory system of a subject by introducing the composition into the vascular system of the subject;

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity consists of a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA;

wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to a target transcript;

wherein the siRNA or shRNA; and wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length; and

wherein the at least one cationic peptide is selected from the group consisting of a polylysine, a polyarginine, a polyhistidine, and a lysine-histidine peptide.